

Appendix A

Mark Twain State Park

Mark Twain State Park Capital Improvements Budget Program

TABLE A-1 below shows the current "4-Year Capital Improvements Budget Program" for Mark Twain State Park. The following discussion of the listed projects is based on past conversations or tentative planning efforts.

ID #3124 Develop Public Beach: The existing public beach may be relocated at some point in the future. (This original proposal is likely related to one plan that would have put the marina at the current beach location.)

ID #3099 Design Campground Renovation: Develop plans for upgrading and renovating existing campsites, roads, parking, washhouses, and other existing amenities in campground.

ID #3130 Install. Lighting at Rte. U boat ramp: Install parking lot lights and lights at the public boat ramp. Install electric service to area.

ID #2876 Plan/Design for Public Beach: Planning and design phase for ID #3124, above.

ID #2780 Campground Fee Booth: Construct building for collection of camping fees.

ID #2086 Contact Sta. Displays: Develop, build and install interpretive and other displays at the Visitor Contact. Station to be built at Highway 107 and Rte. U.

ID #2105 Complete Group Camp: Design and construct additional facilities at Camp "Si" Colborn. To include four barracks-style cabins, washhouse, and recreation hall.

ID #2473 Construct Storage Building: Design and construct metal pole barn in service area.

Mark Twain Lake Master Plan

ID #2475 Campground & Showerhouse Renovation: Upgrade and renovate existing campsites, roads, parking, washhouses, and other amenities as defined in ID #3099.

ID #2082 New Showerhouse & 50 Campsites: Design and construct new showerhouse and additional 50 campsites.

TABLE A-1

Division of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
4 Year Capital Improvements Budget Program
4 Year Plans Sorted by Management Unit

Mark Twain		Fiscal Year				
Management Unit: 4110 0650 Reg No. 2						
ID	Rate Project Description	First FY 2004	Second FY 2005	Third FY 2006	Fourth FY 2007	Future
3124	0 Develop Public Beach	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$348,000.00
3099	0 Design Campground Renovation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
3130	0 Install Lighting at Rte. U Boat Ramp	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90,000.00
2876	144 Plan/Design for Public Beach	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
2780	0 Campground Fee Booth	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$36,000.00
2086	51 Contact Station Displays	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00
2105	111 Complete Group Camp	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750,000.00
2473	31 Construct Storage Building	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
2475	107 Campground and Showerhouse Renovation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$420,000.00
2082	70 New Showerhouse & 50 Campsites	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$650,000.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$55,000.00	\$2,359,000.00

APPENDIX B

Market Potential and Feasibility Analysis of Commercial Concession Development at Mark Twain Lake, Missouri – January 2001

INTRODUCTION

I.1 Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study is to update a previous similar study completed in 1988 entitled “*Market Potential and Feasibility Analysis of Commercial Concession Development at Mark Twain Lake, Missouri*” (Horner and Shifrin, Inc.). The primary objectives of the current study include the determination of potential market support for new overnight lodging accommodations, and additional marina capacity either through expansion of existing marinas or the development of an additional new marina at Mark Twain Lake. An additional objective was the selection of three alternative sites for the potential development of a resort hotel or lodge facility at Mark Twain Lake.

I.2 Methodology

The primary methodology involved in this study included opinion surveys and personal interviews with representatives of concessions, businesses and various organizations in the Mark Twain Lake area. In addition, field site investigations were conducted for the selection and analysis of alternative resort hotel or lodge sites.

Three opinion surveys were conducted which consisted of the following: (1) households representing the general population within a 125-mile radius of Mark Twain Lake (Appendix A); (2) current slip renters at the two marinas at Mark Twain Lake (Appendix B); and (3) owners of pleasure boats within a 100-mile radius of Mark Twain Lake (Appendix C). The general population survey consisted of a telephone survey of 400 randomly selected households within the defined users market area of Mark Twain Lake. The distribution of telephone calls was based on population distribution and reflected the most recent (July, 1999) county population estimates.

The slip renter survey consisted of a mail-out questionnaire to all current slip renters at the Indian Creek Marina and Blackjack Marina at Mark Twain Lake. There were 360 questionnaires mailed of which 213 were completed and returned, for a response rate of almost 60%. The boat owners survey consisted of a mail-out questionnaire in Illinois and a telephone survey in Missouri of randomly selected households with a registered pleasure boat 18 feet or longer in length within the defined users market. Unfortunately, because of the restrictions imposed under the Federal Privacy Protection Act, the desired sample for the boat owner survey was not attained. Detailed results of each survey are located in Appendices A, B and C respectively.

The second major task included personal and telephone interviews with individuals and organizations directly associated with Mark Twain Lake, or located within the Mark Twain Lake immediate area. Individuals and organizations interviewed included the managers/operators of the Indian Creek and Blackjack marinas; the Mark Twain Lake Operations Manager; the Superintendent of the Mark Twain Lake State Park; the Missouri Department of Natural Resources; the Mark Twain Lake Association; motel operators; and local real estate brokers. A summary of these interviews and comments received are contained in Chapter 2 and Appendix E respectively.

An additional major task was the selection and analysis of alternative resort lodge or hotel sites adjacent to Mark Twain Lake. This task involved the preliminary identification and screening of twelve sites in respect to the physical and economic feasibility of developing a resort lodge or hotel. A number of site selection criteria were utilized in the site analysis, with three alternative sites being ultimately selected based on a point system established for each site criterion.

I.3 Summary of Previous Study Recommendations

The previous similar study contained several recommendations regarding the potential for the development of a third marina, and a lodge/hotel resort and restaurant based on an assessment of market demand. Opinion surveys, similar to those included in the present study, were conducted of the general population, boat slip renters and registered boat owners, and formed the primary basis for the conclusions and recommendations.

Recommendations for concessionaire development at Mark Twain Lake in the 1988 study included the following.

- An effective market demand, along with financial feasibility, for justifying the addition of a third marina at Mark Twain Lake or the expansion of the existing two marinas based on the projection of total slip rental demand for 640 slips in the year 2000.
- Market support for an annual demand for 42,200 resort hotel/lodge room nights in the year 2000 based on survey responses. This overnight lodging demand would equate to a 195- room resort hotel/lodge in the year 2000.
- Projected demand for 341,500 meals served in a restaurant associated with a resort hotel or lodge in the year 2000.

I.4 Summary of Current Study Recommendations

It is concluded in this study that the following actions be pursued to enhance the Mark Twain Lake area and user market. These recommendations are based on an analysis of the Mark Twain Lake environment; surveys of slip renters at Mark Twain Lake, boat owners, and the general population; interviews with local businesses and other organizations; and a market analysis of the existing and potential users market for Mark Twain Lake.

- Development of a quality resort lodge/hotel with a quality restaurant and ancillary uses should be a higher priority than development of a third marina. A resort lodge/hotel should preferably be located near the existing activities, attractions and complementary uses along Highway J above the Dam. The location of a resort lodge/hotel near or in the midst of other activities is preferable considering the potential synergistic effect as a result of mutually supporting activities.
- Development of additional activities (including nighttime), especially those oriented to families and older population.
- Consideration of the development of a third marina only after other amenities (i.e. resort lodge/hotel, etc.) are developed. Considering current slip vacancy rates at the two existing marinas in addition to a general lack of other activities and complementary uses for attracting Lake visitors and users, a third marina could have adverse economic impacts on the existing concessionaires.
- If and when a third marina is developed, it should be centrally located on the Lake, preferably in the Highway 107 area or future expansion area of the Mark Twain State Park to take

advantage of other amenities (i.e. Mark Twain State Park and Shrine) and create a new activity center. An exclusive sailboat marina may be justified.

- Preservation of the quiet, peaceful, relaxing and pristine environment, which is a major attribute of Mark Twain Lake compared to the majority of the competing lakes as cited by survey respondents. While additional commercial activity may be needed, and encouraged, the primary goal should be that of maintaining and preserving the natural attributes which attract the majority of the visitors and users to the Lake.
- Improved fish stocking program through better coordination and management by the entities responsible for management and operation of Mark Twain Lake and Clarence Cannon Dam. Since fishing is a major recreational use of the Lake, it is paramount that the quality of fishing be maintained and enhanced through improved stocking in addition to monitoring and coordination of Lake levels to prevent deterioration of this sport.
- Closer monitoring and coordination of the Lake levels between the responsible entities as it affects recreational boating and fishing.
- Expanded marketing and advertising program for Mark Twain Lake, which implies additional funding from the public and/or private sector. The Lake is not well known, even in Missouri, as evidenced by the survey responses from the general population of which 25 percent stated they had never heard of Mark Twain Lake.
- Improved signage on the major highways advertising Mark Twain Lake, inclusive of all three states within the Lake's market area.
- Evaluation of procedures and practices by law enforcement officials in the immediate area of Mark Twain Lake. Excessive or unnecessary law enforcement was frequently cited by area business people as a factor contributing to a negative image of the Lake and the non-return of some visitors.
- Improving the quality and aesthetic appearance of new development on non-Corps managed properties around the Lake. The majority of the existing commercial development in the immediate area of the Lake is not aesthetically appealing and does not reflect consistent higher quality architectural standards. The respective officials of Monroe County and Ralls County should establish special planning and architectural standards, possibly a special zoning district, towards the goal of enhancing and maintaining consistent higher quality and aesthetically appealing development in the immediate Mark Twain Lake area.

APPENDIX C

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN FOR MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Coordinating the update of this Master Plan with the public and government agencies was very important for identifying resources and determining public needs and desires. Through an informal workshop, letters, meetings and news releases the public and agency partners have been involved and informed. Notification of congressional interests was an important part of the public coordination and public involvement. Elected officials were invited to participate in the workshops and review the draft plan.

Comments were received at the public meeting held in December 2001 and also during the 30-day comment period following the public meeting. In addition, the project's visitor feedback forms were distributed to campers and other lake users requesting their input. The project staff has provided responses to comments where appropriate.

Correspondence and comments are listed below.

PUBLIC MEETING – MASTER PLAN UPDATE **PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED ON 5 DECEMBER, 2001**

From: Not Given
Address:

1. There should be more recreational and private development of the shoreline at Mark Twain Lake. Individual is interested in being an active participant in development and investment.
Response: The Corps of Engineers continue to improve recreational opportunities within applicable authorities and available funding. A recent market feasibility study reinforced the need for additional marina/lodging facilities. The Corps welcomes the opportunity to improve commercial recreational development at the lake through private investment.

It is the policy of the Chief of Engineers to protect and manage shorelines of all civil works water resource development projects under Corps jurisdiction in a manner which will promote the safe and healthful use of these shorelines by the public while maintaining environmental safeguards to ensure a quality resource for use by the public. The objectives of all management actions will be to achieve a balance between permitted private uses and resource protection for general public use.

As in the case of Mark Twain Lake, private shoreline uses (i.e. cabins, boat docks) are not allowed on water resource projects where construction was initiated after December 13, 1974, or on water resource projects where no private shoreline uses existed as of that date.

Ownership of private land does not convey any exclusive rights to the use of the adjoining public lands. This policy is designed to eliminate the development of new private facilities on public lands, and grandfather those already in existence. This is done to ensure public use of public lands and shorelines. Reserving Federal lands for private exclusive use is contrary to the intent of the Congress who appropriated public funds for this facility.

2. There should not be any development along the shoreline of Mark Twain Lake. Individual like the current shoreline development policy.

Response: The current shoreline development policy prohibits shoreline development. However, commercial development opportunities and locations have been identified.

3. The development of the underwater fish structures in coves is great. Would like to see continued development of these structures.

Response: Development of fish habitat will continue in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation and local organizations. Corps of Engineers involvement is subject of funding availability.

4. The Corps needs to develop a trap range to shoot clay birds.

Response: The development of a trap range is subject to approval by higher authorities and the availability of a location that meets safety requirements and a viable challenge cost-share partner.

5. I am opposed to the addition of campsites on the Corps or State Park lands.

Response: Comment noted.

6. The Government should allow the existing marinas to sublease parts of their areas for lodging.

Response: Current commercial leases with Blackjack and Indian Creek marinas allow for subleases subject to approval of a proposal and management plan.

7. Interested in developing a parcel of Corps land adjacent to the east side of the John Spalding Beach. The development would include cabins, ancillary docking and trails into the Spalding Recreation Area.

Response: This area has not been identified for commercial development. Future commercial development of this area would be subject to a proposal, feasibility analysis and determination of availability.

8. The Government should open 25 miles of the shoreline with good lake view for private development. The land should remain in Government ownership and long term leased to individuals for the purpose of residential development.

Response: It is the policy of the Chief of Engineers to protect and manage shorelines of all civil works water resource development projects under Corps jurisdiction in a manner which will promote the safe and healthful use of these shorelines by the public while maintaining environmental safeguards to ensure a quality resource for use by the public. The objectives of all management actions will be to achieve a balance between permitted private uses and resource protection for general public use.

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9. The owner of The Landing is interested in building a water plant on Government land or installing an intake into the lake for the purpose of supplying water to The Landing. The location is adjacent to the east side of the John Spalding Beach.

Response: Comment noted. The water supply of Mark Twain Lake is subject to contractual agreement between the State of Missouri,

Corps of Engineers and Clarence Cannon Wholesale Water Commission. Deviations would require negotiations of all entities.

10. I am opposed to any continued development of the Mark Twain Lake Project with the exception of day use or low intensive recreation use.

Response: Comment noted.

11. The project needs more/better quail habitat. Fescue should be eradicated.

Response: The environmental stewardship responsibilities of the Corps of Engineers include habitat analysis by professional resource managers. These analysis are incorporated into management prescriptions for long term objectives of public lands. Overall management goals are to maintain optimum habitat conditions for a diversity of species.

12. The project needs a place designed to shoot clay birds. Development of a trap range would compliment the area and it's users.

Response: See comment #4 above.

13. The Mark Twain State Park is starting a land management plan with resource objectives. They would like to coordinate their management plan with the Corps OMP.

Response: Comment noted.

14. The Corps needs to continue what it does best, manage quality recreation facilities and protect the shoreline.

Response: Comment noted.

15. Private industry needs to work on providing activities in the area for families to do when they are not on the lake.

Response: Comment noted.

16. Missouri Department of Conservation strongly opposes any private residential development of the public land or shoreline.

Response: Comment noted.

17. Efforts should be devoted to obtain commercial lodging opportunities on the lake.

Response: A recent market feasibility study reinforced the need for additional marina/lodging facilities. The Corps of Engineers welcomes the opportunity to improve commercial recreational development at the lake through private investment.

18. Additional marina facilities are necessary to accommodate more visitors.

Response: See comment #17 above.

19. The Corps should devote more effort to improving public fishing accesses.

Response: There are no additional boat ramps planned for construction on Mark Twain Lake at this time. Access to the shoreline is difficult due to pool fluctuations, topography and high maintenance requirements. Future development of fishing access for disabled individuals has been approved and is subject to available funding.

20. Full service hookups are needed in Corps Campgrounds.

Response: Limited full service hookups for existing campsites have been approved and are under construction in the Ray Behrens and Indian Creek Campgrounds where environmentally and economically feasible.

21. The Corps should continue to market the lake in all available markets.

Response: The Corps continues to partner with local entities to encourage tourism through attendance at boat/sports shows, web pages, brochures, news releases, and special events.

From: Indian Creek Marina
Address: P.O. Box 57, Monroe City, Missouri 63456

INDIAN CREEK

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



January 5, 2002

Department of the Army
St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers
Mark Twain Lake Project Office
20642 Highway J
Monroe City, Missouri 63456-9359

Gentlemen:

In response to your letter of November 21, 2001, regarding development of the Mark Twain Lake Master Plan establishing project goals and objectives for the next ten year period, we and our advisors respectively submit the following recommendations and proposals for your consideration.

To facilitate the enhancement of Lake Area development, it is our hope that these recommendations can be incorporated in the early years of your plan.

There has never been a more opportune time for the enhancement of Mark Twain Lake for recreational and commercial purposes.

Lack of expanded recreational facilities has contributed to the closing of many businesses around the lake over the past two to three years contributing to an already depressed economic situation.

However, with the Mark Twain Lake area becoming a crossroads of the Avenue of The Saints and the Chicago to Kansas City Expressway plus the recreational requirements of more and more retirees from the St. Louis region who are moving into this area, it is time to take the lake to the next level.

By expanding recreational facilities and business opportunities, the Corps has the opportunity to make a significant contribution to an economically depressed area.

We appreciate the opportunity to have input into to your plan and trust that serious consideration will be given the attached recommendations.

Sincerely,

Larry Spalding, President
Indian Creek Development Corporation
DBA, Indian Creek Marina

CC

U.S. Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond
U.S. Senator Jean Carnahan
U.S. Congressman Kenny Hulshof
Governor Bob Holden
Lt. Governor Joe Maxwell

Senator John Cauthorn
Representative Wes Shoemaker
Representative Sam Berkowitz
Representative Robert Clayton

P.O. BOX 157 • MONROE CITY, MISSOURI 63456

LAWRENCE J. SPALDING
President
419 N. Vine St.
Monroe City, Missouri 63456
(573) 735-2731

HAROLD SPALDING
Vice-President
P.O. Box 54
Monroe City, Missouri 63456
(573) 735-2814

ALBERT SPALDING
Secretary/Treasurer
48 Ruth Circle
Monroe City, Missouri 63456
(573) 735-2007

JOHN H. MARTIN
Director
P.O. Box 794
Hannibal, Missouri 63401
(573) 221-0310

GEORGE BROUGHTON
Director
Box 65
Ender, Missouri 63438
(573) 438-5210

CHRISTIAN LEHENBAUER
Director
Rural Route 2
Monroe City, Missouri 63456
(573) 725-2036

INDIAN CREEK MARINA
on Mark Twain Lake
P.O. Box 157
Monroe City, Missouri 63456
(573) 735-4079

Recommendations:

We recommend that the Corp of Engineers:

A. Provide a written contract that grants the renewal of leases for a period commensurate with the type of development and length of mortgage amortization in order that developer can obtain financing through commercial sources.

Response: Long term leases are subject to Federal laws and regulations of the Department of the Army for the management of real property for commercial concessions. Deviations can be negotiated on a case by case basis subject to a written proposal, adequate financial resources and a viable management plan.

B. Change its policy to enable the granting of longer-term commercial leases.

Response: See Comment A above.

C. Assist in the development of utilities and other infrastructure, in designated areas, necessary to best utilize public property for lodging and other concession purposes.

Response: The Corps of Engineers supported development of non-revenue producing infrastructure at existing marinas. New additional development would be subject to private sector interest in commercial concessions and the availability of supplemental appropriations.

D. Divestment of designated areas around Lake that have potential for economic development by private ownership outside the 300 ft. green strip.

Response: All lands in public ownership meet the requirements of authorized project purposes.

E. That all Corp of Engineer studies, surveys, visitation records and itemized expenditures, by sub categories (i.e. fish restocking, equestrian trail, rodeo, Lake Promotion, etc.) be made available to the public via the Internet.

Response: Substantial improvements are being made to provide public information on the internet.

F. That the Corps of Engineers revise its policy on the sale of electrical power produced at the dam generation plant to ensure that the production of electricity would not take precedence over the need to maintain a lake level that is necessary and beneficial to fish spawning and other recreational endeavors.

Response: Power generation is governed by contractual agreements. Actual generation periods and volumes of water is subject to water control policies and manuals developed by the Corps of Engineers. The water control manual balances the need of hydropower generation, flood control, water supply, environmental stewardship, downstream interests and recreation. Power generation has been and will continue to be stabilized during

critical spawning periods thru cooperation by the Corps of Engineers, Missouri Department of Conservation, Southwest Power Administration and the power industry.

G. To form an Advisory Committee as outlined in Page 2 of these recommendations.

Response: Comment noted. The Corps of Engineers welcomes the opportunity to partner with outside interests and has a working relationship with local communities, chambers of commerce and municipal governments.

H. Formulate a new Mission Statement that says part of the goal of the Corps of Engineers is to develop recreational aspects of the lake.

Response: Recreation is one of the authorized purposes for Mark Twain Lake. Large investments of public tax dollars thru authorities and appropriations have been invested in the development of public recreation facilities at Mark Twain Lake and all Corps of Engineer projects nationwide.

Advisory Committee:

We recommend the establishment of a local advisory committee.

The purpose of the committee would be to work with and make recommendations for the overall development of the lake to the Corps of Engineers.

The committee would consist of ten members. Each of the two United States Senators would appoint one member and one member would be appointed by the United States Representative. The other seven members would be elected by popular vote of the public from nominees representing Ralls, Monroe, Marion, Shelby, Audrain and Randolph counties.

Local, state, and nationally recognized service clubs and the county commissions would make nominations for committee members.

The seven Advisory Committee members would be elected by popular vote of the public at an annual meeting.

By-laws would be established by the elected Advisory Committee members.

Overall recommendations would include but would not be limited to the following:

A. Budgeting aspects of the lake.

B. Future development of the Lake for economical expansion.

C. Have input in the generation of electrical power to maintain optimum lake levels, which are critical to recreation and fish spawn.

D. Review statutory restrictions made on Corps of Engineers on lakes built after 1972 and make recommendations for amendments favorable to development of said lakes.

E. Commit to lobbying efforts to get above amendments introduced and passed.

F. Make a yearly evaluation of committee goals.

G. Monitor accountability of Corps of Engineers for adherence to established goals set by Advisory Committee.

Response: Comment noted.

NAME: Charlie Davidson

ADDRESS: 3303 Pershing, Hannibal, MO 63401

"Having fished and hunted, primarily quail and woodcock (some years) in fields adjacent to Salt River for the last 60 years, I find the area from Norton Bridge up past Shaffer property up to about 5 years ago was once wonderful rabbit and quail habitat. Areas that were the best have now reverted to fescue so heavy and thick you can't walk in it."

"My question is this: Has any consideration been given to returning these areas to small game consideration-similar to those plans being developed by the Missouri Department of Conservation?"

"Even strips of bare ground for dusting and a few strips of prairie grasses and a food plot or two would be a lot. Just an old quail hunter (88) but would like to see my grandkids enjoy some of the times I have had."

Response: See Comment #11 above.

NAME: Q.U. (Quail Unlimited?)

ADDRESS:

"Consideration should be given to control of exotic invasive species, particularly seresia lespedeza and tall fescue.

Also, it is important to maintain early successional vegetation. Aggressive measures should be taken to maintain old fields in native vegetation through mechanical, chemical and prescribed fire methods.

Every effort should be made to allow public access to as many acres as possible for the purposes of hunting and other consumptive sports."

Response: Current management plans include various habitat manipulation techniques to promote vegetative diversity. An aggressive prescribed burn plan has been part of this for over 10 years.

Public access is permitted on all lands and waters of the Mark Twain Lake Project except designated administrative and operational areas. Hunting is also permitted project wide except for within recreation areas and other areas signed as such for safety purposes.

NAME: Barbara Pickering

ADDRESS: City of Mexico, 300 N. Coal. Mexico, Missouri 65265

Having been involved with Mark Twain Lake since it's inception and now a resident houseboat owner at Black Jack Marina, I appreciate the opportunity to share with you some suggestions for the Master Plan Update.

Along with many others, we had hoped for more of an economic impact on the communities surrounding MTL. I feel that because development is not allowed within 300 feet of the Lake that it has kept many businesses from being able to survive. At one time, I was pretty sure that you were going to allow businesses to have docks on the water but that has never happened.

Response: The Corps welcomes commercial development at Mark Twain Lake and believes the key to future benefits include addressing the need for lodging and/or resort development.

Community docks must comply with Corps of Engineer standards and be available to the general public. Both marinas were willing to meet the needs of local businesses so long as the additional docks were provided at the expense of the local businesses.

Another service lacking, I feel, are docks for nightly, weekly, monthly rental for fishermen. Therefore, if they come for several days or a week they have to pull their boats out every day. This is inconvenient for them and the rental docks could be very helpful in bringing money in to be used in other developments. Another thought would be fishing boat rentals but that would also have to be located on the water.

Response: Boat rentals and docks are available at both marinas.

As you know, there were a group of local businessmen interested in building a third marina, cabins, restaurant and landing strip. Because they refused to build it at the site selected by DNR (which they deemed to be the worst site on the Lake and years later DNR finally agreed) they were not able to proceed with the project. That would have certainly helped the Lake to grow.

Response: Comment noted.

MTL is a beautiful lake. It should be promoted to the entire State of Missouri as well as surrounding states. I serve on the Missouri Highway Corridor Commission as a co-chairman of the Link the Lakes Corridor. We work with other communities along Highway 54 to promote a tourism corridor from Hannibal and Mark Twain Lake to Branson and Table Rock Lake. It would allow families to experience all kinds of entertainment clear across the State of Missouri.

Response: Improvements to the transportation corridors in northeast Missouri will provide benefits for tourism to the area.

From: Travis Moore, Northeast Missouri Chapter of the NWTF

Address: 1840 CR 319, Palmyra, MO 63461

My other hope is that the Corps be more flexible in working with private conservation groups. I have a specific example. Last year, our NWTF chapter wanted to host a women's only dove hunt. We offered to plant and maintain a sunflower field and asked if it would be possible to do that on Corps ground and keep the field closed for two days before opening it to the public. (The season opened on a Friday, we wanted to hold the event on Saturday,) I thought it was a win/win situation for both the Corps and the NWTF. We could hold our hold our event and the Corps would gain a dove field for public use at no cost, and the number of "limited resource" users using the area would go up.

Unfortunately, the Corps response was "If we did it for you, we'd have to do it for everyone". This really rubs me the wrong way because our NWTF chapter had planted food plots for free in the past, we've planted trees on Corps ground, and we have worked to scout and identify the best blinds sites for the handicap turkey hunt. I would just like to see more flexibility. The situation could have been beneficial for both of us.

Response: Food plots are currently planted on public lands by private conservation groups and individuals through challenge cost share agreements and the volunteer program. It is difficult to exclude public use and access to public lands for special groups. The Corps of Engineers provide dove hunting opportunities to the public on various areas. In addition, these areas are available for use by all members of the public. The Corps partners with various private conservation groups to provide hunting and other recreational opportunities at Mark Twain Lake.

This activity needs to be submitted as a formal partnership proposal and discussed with Corps management to determine if the concept can be refined to address items of concern.